

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims in the present application.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:
receiving invoice information in an application-specific data object format from each of a plurality of applications;
translating the invoice information into a common invoice data object format, wherein
the translating is performed by a processor,
the common invoice data object format comprises at least one relationship data element, wherein
the relationship data element specifies at least one relationship between a plurality of entities,
the common invoice data object format comprises at least one custom data element, and
the custom data element ~~is configured to allow~~ **facilitates** customization of the common invoice data object format; and
determining essential data elements of the common invoice data object format, wherein
the essential data elements are stored in a memory coupled to the processor, and
the essential data elements comprise
an identification data element,
a base data element,
a pricing data element,
a shipping data element, and
a line item details data element.

2. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1 further comprising:
inter-exchanging invoice information in the common invoice data object format between two or more of the plurality of applications.
3. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 2 further comprising:
translating invoice information in the common invoice data object to an application-specific data object format for use by a respective application.
4. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 3 wherein the common invoice data object format uses an extensible markup language format.
5. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 4 further comprising the precedent operations of:
creating a common invoice data object format including at least the essential data elements.
6. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1 wherein the essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 6 wherein the common invoice data object format includes at least one complex data element.
9. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 8 wherein the common invoice data object format includes one or more related data elements

selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related payment method data element, a related payment terms data element, and a related comments data element.

10. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a processor;

a machine-readable storage medium configured to be accessed by the processor; and
a data structure, wherein

the data structure is stored on the machine-readable storage medium, and
the data structure uses is defined in an extensible markup language format, the
data structure comprising:

at least one relationship data element, wherein

the relationship data element specifies at least one relationship
between a plurality of entities;

at least one custom data element configured to allow facilitate
customization of the common invoice data object format;
an invoice identification data element;
an invoice base data element;
an invoice pricing data element;
an invoice shipping data element; and
an invoice line item details data element.

11. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 10
wherein the data structure further comprises:

at least one complex data element.

12. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 11
wherein the data structure further comprises:

one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related payment method data element, a related payment terms data element, and a related comments data element.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A machine-readable medium that provides executable instructions, which, when executed by a computing system, cause the computing system to perform a method comprising:

receiving invoice information in an application-specific data object format from each of a plurality of applications;

translating the invoice information into a common invoice data object format, wherein

the common invoice data object format comprises at least one relationship data element, wherein the relationship data element specifies at least one relationship between a plurality of entities,

the common invoice data object format comprises at least one custom data element, and

the custom data element ~~is configured to allow~~ **facilitates** customization of the common invoice data object format; and

determining essential data elements of the common invoice data object format, wherein

the essential data elements comprise
 an identification data element,
 a base data element,
 a pricing data element,
 a shipping data element, and
 a line item details data element.

14. **(Original)** The machine-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the method further comprises:

inter-exchanging invoice information in the common invoice data object format between two or more of the plurality of applications.

15. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 14 wherein the method further comprises:

translating invoice information in the common invoice data object to an application-specific data object format for use by a respective application.

16. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the common invoice data object format uses an extensible markup language format.

17. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 16 wherein the method further comprises the precedent operations of:

creating a common invoice data object format including at least the essential data elements.

18. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 1 wherein the essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the common invoice data object format includes at least one complex data element.

21. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 20 wherein the common invoice data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related payment method data element, a related payment terms data element, and a related comments data element.

22. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a plurality of processing systems, each processing system storing at least one application that processes invoice information, the invoice information having an application-specific data object format; and
 an integration server, coupled via a network, to each of the plurality of processing systems, the integration server translating invoice information from an application specific data object format to a common invoice data object format, wherein
 the common invoice data object format comprises

at least one relationship data element, wherein
the relationship data element specifies at least one
relationship between a plurality of entities,

at least one custom data element, wherein

the custom data element ~~is configured to allow~~ facilitates
 customization of the common invoice data object
 format, and

a set of essential data elements,
 the set of essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats, and
 the set of essential data elements comprise
 an identification data element,
 a base data element,
 a pricing data element,
 a shipping data element, and
 a line item details data element.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein invoice information in the common invoice data object format is inter-exchanged between two or more processing systems.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the common invoice data object format uses an extensible markup language format.
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Cancelled)
27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the common invoice data object format includes at least one complex data element.
28. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the common invoice data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related payment method data element, a related payment terms data element, and a related comments data element.
29. (New) The method of claim 6 further comprising:
specifying a level of compatibility with a data object format of a first application,
wherein
the determining the essential data elements facilitates achieving the specified level
of compatibility.